**Pension to legal heirs of FCI employees**

2694. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the legal heirs of the Ex-servicemen who expired while in service of FCI are eligible for both contributory pension prevailing in FCI and the Military Family Pension;

(b) whether the Military authorities discontinue the military family pension if the legal heirs are in receipt of FCI contributory pension;

(c) whether Government would permit to exercise of option to avail better pension to those eligible for only one pension; and

(d) Government's reactions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The nominees of ex-servicemen are entitled for Family Pension in addition to the pension benefits from Defence services w.e.f. 27.7.2001 provided their contribution in Family Pension Fund (FPF) has been received.

**Abolition of FCI**

2695. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to 'ABOLISH' Food Corporation of India in the name of reforms;

(b) whether this proposal has caused confusion among farmers;

(c) whether any alternative system has been contemplated in the absence of foodgrains procurement system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question doesn't arise.

(c) and (d) A High Level Committee is examining certain alternatives. The final decision is yet to be taken.

**Withdrawal of orders issued under Essential Commodities Act**

2696. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to withdraw all orders issued by different States under the Essential Commodities Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for their withdrawal;

(d) whether the State Governments were consulted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the views of the State Governments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Central Government has issued an order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allowing dealers to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, dispose, etc. any quantity in respect of wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils without requiring any license or permit therefor under any order issued under the Act. The Order took effect after thirty days from the date of its issue (15.2.2002) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Order made by a State Government before the commencement of the Order. Facilitating free trade and movement of foodgrains would enable farmers to get best prices for their produce, achieve price stability and ensure availability of foodgrains in deficit areas.

(d) and (e) The need to relax various controls on agricultural products including controls on inter-State movement of such products was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers held on 21.5.2001